



UNITE – INSPIRE- EXCEL

Drug Education Policy

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**Member of staff responsible
for this policy in consultation
with staff and governors:**

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**Governing Body Committee
responsible for review:**

Children & Learning

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1. Introduction

Westfields Junior School is committed to the health and safety of all its pupils and staff and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The school is strongly opposed to the use of illegal substances, alcohol and tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines. Drug misuse refers to the use of illegal drugs and the misuse, whether deliberate or unintentional, of prescribed drugs and substances such as solvents. Drug misuse can harm the misuser both physically and mentally and through the misuser's actions, other people and the environment.

We believe that our school, as part of its care and welfare of all pupils, has a duty to inform and educate young people of the consequence of drug use and misuse.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by working in partnership with them and keeping them informed at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

The HCC Substance Use and Misuse Policy, September 2012 states that schools should *'provide good quality education and advice, planning for opportunities to meet the varied needs of young people, so that they and their families are provided with credible information to actively resist substance misuse and have a thorough knowledge of their effects and harms, and have the skills and confidence to choose not to use drugs and alcohol'*

2. Aims

At Westfields, we aim to:

- Ensure that all children are able to access appropriate and adequate information about substances.
- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
- Introduce positive strategies to handle situations safely.
- Deliver drug education in a clear and honest manner that informs, without encouraging, drug misuse.
- Promote a coherent and consistent approach to substance misuse education, this supports the physical, emotional and social development of children.
- Improve the health and well-being of children in Hampshire by reducing the harm linked with substance misuse.

3. Practice

Methodology and approach

- i) Drug Education will be provided in the broader context of the teaching of the health, personal and social education as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood. It will be matched to the children's increasing understanding and maturity.
- ii) Teachers will be mindful of the background of any vulnerable children in their class or group who the subject might affect, and be sensitive in their delivery of teaching materials. Teachers will also aim to create an environment where young people can reflect on their own and others' attitudes to drugs and alcohol, and where misconceptions can be challenged.
- iii) Within PSHE, children will be taught about the use of drugs, both legal and illegal, including the most important facts, their uses and the dangers of all types of drugs.
'Substance use and misuse education is learning about the different substances and the mental, physical, psychological and social effects of misuse, and encourages the development of the skills and attitudes to reduce harm.' The HCC Substance use and misuse policy, September 2012

Drug Education is mainly integrated into Years 3, 5 and 6.

In Year 3, teachers will reinforce Key Stage 1 work on drugs and medicines and cover various aspects such as body defences and what makes things dangerous.

In Year 5, children are taught more about solvents, alcohol and other drugs. Strategies are developed to help children resist pressures and to become more aware of conscious and subconscious messages they may receive about drugs.

In Year 6, children are taught about smoking, including the media's representation of smoking over the years and the dangers and illnesses which can be caused by smoking.

iv) Key messages about attitudes towards drugs continue to be reinforced through the five rules designed to help children become more aware from a young age that they can keep themselves safe.

- Think before you do!
- Make up your own mind!
- Trust your own feelings!
- You can say NO!
- Ask for help if you need to!

v) Wherever possible, links will be made with the wider community to support and reinforce positive approaches and attitudes towards Drug Education.

4. Management of drug related incidents on the school premises

In the event of:

- a hearsay drug related incident;
- suspicious behaviour;
- the findings of paraphernalia or substances;

The co-ordinator for PSHE should be informed immediately and the incident logged. The Headteacher will be notified of all incidents. Following an investigation, the appropriate course of action will be taken and any relevant authorities informed. We reserve the right to search an individual's property with due sensitivity, with regard to any drug related incident (in accordance with DFE regulations.)

5. Prescribed Drugs

i) Prescribed drugs will be kept in the Medical Cupboard and can be accessed through the designated first-aider. All parents will be required to complete the statutory form prior to drugs being held and administered in school.

ii) Parents will also be required to fill out the statutory forms and all medication will need to be labelled, in order for teachers to give prescribed drugs needed on school residential visits.

6. Useful links

HCC Substance use and misuse policy <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/drugs-use-and-misuse-policy-sept-2012.pdf>

Smoke free youth plan www.hants.gov.uk/rh/smokefree/strategy.pdf

Hampshire alcohol strategy www.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-alcohol-strategy-201-15.pdf